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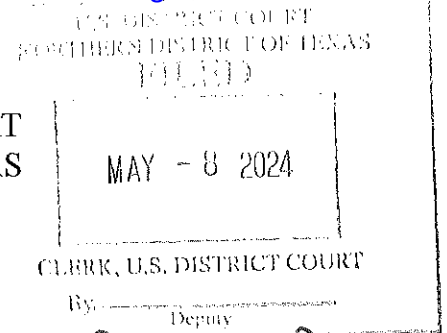
IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
FORT WORTH DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

STEPHEN WAYNE ASHLEY (01)

NO. 4:24-CR-102-P



PLEA AGREEMENT WITH WAIVER OF APPEAL

Stephen Wayne Ashley, the defendant; Christopher Weinbel, the defendant's attorney; and the United States of America (the government) agree as follows:

1. **Rights of the defendant:** The defendant understands that the defendant has the rights:
 - a. to plead not guilty;
 - b. to have a trial by jury;
 - c. to have the defendant's guilt proven beyond a reasonable doubt;
 - d. to confront and cross-examine witnesses and to call witnesses in the defendant's defense; and
 - e. against compelled self-incrimination.
2. **Waiver of rights and plea of guilty:** The defendant waives these rights and pleads guilty to the offenses alleged in Count One of the Information, charging a violation of 18 U.S.C. §2251(a), that is, Sexual Exploitation of a Child; and Count Two of the Information, charging a violation of 18 U.S.C. §2252A(a)(5)(B), that is, Possession of Child Pornography.

The defendant understands the nature and elements of the crime to which the defendant is pleading guilty and agrees that the factual resume the defendant has signed is true and will be submitted as evidence.

3. **Sentence:** The minimum and maximum penalties the Court can impose include:

Count One

- a. imprisonment for a period not less than 15 years and not to exceed 30 years;
- b. a fine not to exceed \$250,000, or twice any pecuniary gain to the defendant or loss to the victim(s);
- c. a term of supervised release of at least five years up to any term of years to life, which is mandatory under the law and will follow any term of imprisonment. If the defendant violates the conditions of supervised release, the defendant could be imprisoned for the entire term of supervised release;
- d. a mandatory special assessment of \$ 100; plus an additional \$5,000 assessment pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3014(a);
- e. an assessment required by 18 U.S.C. § 2259A in an amount determined by the Court not to exceed \$50,000;
- f. restitution to victims, which is mandatory under the law, and which the defendant agrees may include restitution arising from all relevant conduct, not limited to that arising from the offense of conviction alone; and
- g. costs of incarceration and supervision.

Count Two

- a. imprisonment for a period not to exceed 20 years;
- b. a fine not to exceed \$250,000, or twice any pecuniary gain to the defendant or loss to the victim(s);
- c. a term of supervised release of at least five years up to any term of years to life, which is mandatory under the law and will follow any term of imprisonment. If the defendant violates the conditions of supervised release, the defendant could be imprisoned for the entire term of supervised release;
- d. a mandatory special assessment of \$ 100; plus an additional \$5,000 assessment pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3014(a);
- e. an assessment required by 18 U.S.C. § 2259A in an amount determined by the Court not to exceed \$17,000;
- f. restitution not less than \$3,000 to victims, which is mandatory under the law, and which the defendant agrees may include restitution arising from all relevant conduct, not limited to that arising from the offense of conviction alone; and
- g. costs of incarceration and supervision.

4. **Court's sentencing discretion and role of the Guidelines:** The defendant understands that the sentence in this case will be imposed by the Court after consideration of the United States Sentencing Guidelines. The guidelines are not binding on the Court, but are advisory only. The defendant has reviewed the guidelines with the defendant's attorney, but understands no one can predict with certainty the outcome of the Court's consideration of the guidelines in this case. The defendant will not be allowed to withdraw the defendant's plea if the defendant's sentence is higher than expected.

The defendant fully understands that the actual sentence imposed (so long as it is within the statutory maximum) is solely in the discretion of the Court.

5. **Defendant's agreement.** The defendant shall not knowingly provide false information to the U.S. Probation Office (USPO), the Court, or the government relating to the offense of conviction and all relevant conduct, or any information the defendant must provide related to this agreement.

6. **Mandatory special assessment:** The defendant agrees to pay the U.S. District Clerk the amount of \$200 and, unless the Court finds the defendant indigent specifically for the purpose of this paragraph, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3014(a), an additional amount of \$10,000, in satisfaction of the mandatory special assessments prior to sentencing.

7. **Financial Obligations:** The defendant understands that any financial obligation imposed by the Court for restitution, fines, or special assessments is due and payable immediately. In the event the Court imposes a schedule for payment, the defendant agrees that such a schedule represents a minimum payment obligation and does not preclude the U.S. Attorney's Office from pursuing any other means by which to satisfy the defendant's full and immediately enforceable financial obligation. The defendant understands that the defendant has a continuing obligation to pay in full as soon as possible any financial obligation imposed by the Court. The defendant further agrees as follows:

- a. The defendant shall submit an accurate and complete personal financial statement under oath on demand by the USPO, the Court, or the government, which statement shall include all requested support documents and may be shared between and among the government and the USPO as needed for collection of any financial obligations.
- b. The defendant shall submit to interviews by the government and the USPO regarding the defendant's capacity to satisfy any fine, restitution, or special assessment.
- c. The defendant expressly authorizes the United States Attorney's Office to immediately obtain a credit report on the defendant to evaluate the defendant's ability to satisfy any financial obligation imposed by the Court.
- d. The defendant consents to enrollment upon sentencing in the Treasury Offset Program, at the sole discretion of the government, which would allow for funds otherwise payable to the defendant from any federal agency, including the Internal Revenue Service and the Social Security Administration, to be applied to the defendant's outstanding financial obligations imposed by the Court.

8. **Restitution:** The defendant agrees that the Court is authorized to order, and the defendant agrees to pay, restitution for all loss resulting from the offenses of conviction and all relevant conduct, in an amount to be determined by the Court.

Defendant agrees that, for purposes of this Plea Agreement, restitution for relevant conduct shall include all acts and omissions described in USSG § 1B1.3(a)(1)(A) and (1)(B), as well as all acts and omissions that were part of the same course of conduct or common scheme or plan, regardless whether the grouping rules in USSG § 3D1.2 might apply to computation of the advisory imprisonment range. The defendant understands that should the Court order that restitution be paid jointly and severally with others who are required to pay restitution for the same loss to victims that credit may not be received for all payments made by any other person with joint and several liability. The defendant agrees that any restitution ordered to be paid jointly and severally remains the responsibility of the defendant until the defendant has paid the defendant's ordered amount of restitution in full or the respective victim has been paid in full.

9. **Destruction of property:** The defendant waives and abandons any and all right, title, claim or interest, he may have in all property seized during the investigation of the defendant from his residence and leading to the Information in this case, which is specifically listed below:

- a. One Samsung Galaxy S21 Ultra cellular phone; and
- b. One Samsung Tablet, SM-X808U.

Defendant affirms that no other person has an interest in the listed property and agrees that the government may destroy or otherwise dispose of such property, including but not limited to any and all images, files, documents or other information that may be electronically stored on or within the listed property, at its discretion.

The defendant agrees there was reasonable cause for the seizure of the subject property and releases, holds harmless, and forever discharges the government, its officers, agents, servants, and employees, its heirs, successors, or assigns, or any state or local authorities, either in their official or individual capacities, from any and all claims, causes of action, suits, proceedings, debts, dues, contracts, judgments, damages, and/or demands whatsoever in law or equity that the defendant and his heirs, successors, or assigns ever had, now have, or may have in the future, in relation to the subject property. The defendant further agrees that he will not seek costs or attorney fees in connection with the seizure, abandonment, or destruction of the subject property.

10. **Government's agreement:** The government will not bring any additional charges against the defendant based upon the conduct underlying and related to the defendant's plea of guilty. This agreement is limited to the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Texas and does not bind any other federal, state, or local prosecuting authorities, nor does it prohibit any civil or administrative proceeding against the defendant or any property.

11. **Violation of agreement:** The defendant understands that if the defendant violates any provision of this agreement, or if the defendant's guilty plea is vacated or withdrawn, the government will be free from any obligations of the agreement and free to prosecute the defendant for all offenses of which it has knowledge, including the reinstatement of charges dismissed pursuant to this plea agreement. In the event of such a violation, vacatur, or withdrawal, the defendant waives all objections based upon delay in prosecution.

If the plea is vacated or withdrawn for any reason other than a finding that it was involuntary, the defendant also waives all objections to the use against the defendant of any information or statements the defendant has provided to the government, and any resulting leads.

12. **Voluntary plea:** This plea of guilty is freely and voluntarily made and is not the result of force or threats, or of promises apart from those set forth in this plea agreement. There have been no guarantees or promises from anyone as to what sentence the Court will impose.

13. **Waiver of right to appeal or otherwise challenge sentence:** The defendant waives the defendant's rights, conferred by 28 U.S.C. § 1291 and 18 U.S.C. § 3742, to appeal the conviction, sentence, fine and order of restitution or forfeiture in an amount to be determined by the Court. The defendant further waives the defendant's right to contest the conviction, sentence, fine and order of restitution or forfeiture in any collateral proceeding, including proceedings under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 and 28 U.S.C. § 2255. The defendant, however, reserves the rights (a) to bring a direct appeal of (i) a sentence exceeding the statutory maximum punishment, or (ii) an arithmetic error at sentencing, (b) to challenge the voluntariness of the defendant's plea of guilty or this waiver, and (c) to bring a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel.

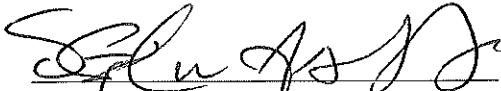
14. **Representation of counsel:** The defendant has thoroughly reviewed all legal and factual aspects of this case with the defendant's attorney and is fully satisfied with that attorney's legal representation. The defendant has received from the defendant's attorney explanations satisfactory to the defendant concerning each

paragraph of this plea agreement, each of the defendant's rights affected by this agreement, and the alternatives available to the defendant other than entering into this agreement. Because the defendant concedes that the defendant is guilty, and after conferring with the defendant's attorney, the defendant has concluded that it is in the defendant's best interest to enter into this plea agreement and all its terms, rather than to proceed to trial in this case.

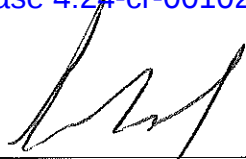
15. **Entirety of agreement:** This document is a complete statement of the parties' agreement and may not be modified unless the modification is in writing and signed by all parties. This agreement supersedes any and all other promises, representations, understandings, and agreements that are or were made between the parties at any time before the guilty plea is entered in court. No promises or representations have been made by the United States except as set forth in writing in this plea agreement.

AGREED TO AND SIGNED this 30th day of April 2024.

LEIGHA SIMONTON
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY


STEPHEN WAYNE ASHLEY
Defendant


AISHA SALEEM
Assistant United States Attorney
Texas State Bar No. 00786218
801 Cherry Street, Suite 1700
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
Telephone: 817-252-5200
Facsimile: 817-252-5455
Email: aisha.saleem@usdoj.gov


CHRISTOPHER WEINBEL
Attorney for Defendant



JAY WEIMER
Deputy Criminal Chief,

I have read or had read to me this plea agreement and have carefully reviewed every part of it with my attorney. I fully understand it and voluntarily agree to it.


STEPHEN WAYNE ASHLEY

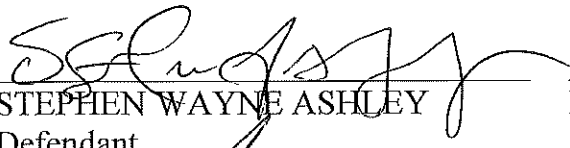
26 APR 24
Date

I am the defendant's attorney. I have carefully reviewed every part of this plea agreement with the defendant. To my knowledge and belief, my client's decision to enter into this plea agreement is an informed and voluntary one.

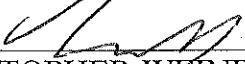

CHRISTOPHER WEINBEL
Attorney for Defendant

26 APR 24
Date

I have been advised, and understand, that under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, a federal law, I must register and keep the registration current in each of the following jurisdictions: where I reside; where I am an employee; and where I am a student. I understand that the requirements for registration include providing my name, my residence address, and the names and addresses of any places where I am or will be an employee or a student, among other information. I further understand that the requirement to keep the registration current includes informing at least one jurisdiction in which I reside, am an employee, or am a student not later than three business days after any change of my name, residence, employment, or student status. I further understand that I am required to provide information relating to my intended travel outside the United States. I have been advised, and understand, that failure to comply with these obligations subjects me to prosecution for failure to register under federal law, 18 U.S.C. § 2250, which is punishable by a fine or imprisonment or both.


STEPHEN WAYNE ASHLEY
Defendant

26 APR 24
Date


CHRISTOPHER WEINBEL
Attorney for Defendant

26 APR 24
Date